



Fact Sheet

SS/HS Is Helping To Sustain Communities

Sustainability means that you've got something that works and you want it to stay there.... If it's making a difference, you go out and find whatever you need to incorporate—collaboration, additional funding—and the way to do that is [to] use your evaluation...promote it.... People won't support something they don't see being successful.... That's again where your evaluation data is so important. (Project director, Jonesboro SS/HS initiative, Jonesboro, AR)

I think the biggest impact of our Safe Schools program has to have been community involvement and bringing people inside the buildings. When people look at schools as a whole, they look at them from the outside. We are trying to make it a warm environment where... parents can feel comfortable being a part of [the] community and being part of our building by being inside of it. (Acting project director, Toledo SS/HS initiative, Toledo, OH)

Sustainability has really been something that has been on our minds from the beginning.... A key part of that was bringing partners in and promoting the ideas in a way that these ideas became passions for everybody in the community.... It becomes not a financial kind of...cost-benefit analysis any more, but part of a way of being and doing business for children and our schools. (Resource manager, Cayuga County SS/HS initiative, Auburn, NY)

The Safe Schools/Healthy Students (SS/HS) Initiative provides local education authorities and their coalition partners with up to \$3 million per year for up to 3 years. Often, this infusion of money is just what the community needs to get started or continue working together to prevent violence and substance abuse.

And these collaborative relationships are proving to be durable. Like never before, in SS/HS communities across the country, youth-serving organizations are sowing the seeds of change, “bringing people inside the buildings” to support our youth, our families, and our schools.

As one SS/HS grantee put it, it's not just about money, “but part of a way of being and doing business for children and our schools.”

The faces of SS/HS are many, but the vision is one—safe schools, healthy students.

Faces of SS/HS: Jonesboro, AR

Located 70 miles northwest of Memphis, TN, Jonesboro is a rural community of 55,000 residents. Agriculture, including farming rice, soybeans, and cotton as well as raising livestock, is a mainstay of the local economy. The city is also home to Arkansas State University, an institution that attracts a host of international students and their families to the area. Reducing the effects of poverty on students' ability to learn remains a key concern for the Jonesboro initiative's partners, with up to 85 percent of the city's students receiving free and reduced-price lunches. Funded in 1999, the grant serves more than 10,000 students in 6 school districts with a primary focus on providing comprehensive mental health services, including case managers and therapists, at individual schools for students, staff, and families.